

From: [Judy Brouillette](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: RE: "Religious Refusal" Exemptions
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 7:21:56 PM

I am a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and I am asking you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine which pertain to coverage of preventive care under the new health care law, and to reject any exemptions for "religious employers." These preventive services are crucial to the new law and would provide countless women better access to health care.

While AAUW believes that "religious refusal" exemptions represent an unjust denial to women's access to contraceptive services, still others, who have an ideological dislike for all contraceptive services, are attempting to push the government to make exemptions even larger. Indeed, some groups are pushing for the exemption to apply to religiously-run health providers, so hospitals with religious affiliations would be exempt from the coverage requirement, even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies. If granted, this larger exemption would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work. Contraceptives have never been illegal in my lifetime, and heaven knows we need them more than ever, with the population crisis upon us.

I urge you to ensure women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations and rejecting the proposed religious refusal exemption provisions.

Sincerely,

Judy F. Brouillette